

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) In the processing of poultry for consumption as a meat product, the improvement which comprises causing an eviscerated poultry carcass to be subjected to inside-outside washing with a microbiocidal solution of water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, wherein in said inside-outside washing, the interior cavity of a transported poultry carcass is penetrated by a spray probe so that (i) contaminants together with (ii) microbiocidal water solution that is sprayed into the interior cavity of the poultry by the probe, drain from the carcass.

2. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 1 wherein a mechanically transported series of poultry carcasses is automatically transported into an apparatus in which the poultry carcass is subjected to said inside-outside washing.

3. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 1 wherein the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

4. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 1 wherein in said inside-outside washing, pressurized sprays of the microbiocidal water solution are applied to the exterior of the carcass so that the exterior of the carcass is thoroughly cleansed, and optionally the exterior of the carcass is also automatically mechanically scrubbed.

5. (Original) The improvement as in any of Claims 1-4 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

6. (Previously presented) In the processing of poultry for consumption as a meat product, the improvement which comprises:

- a) causing (i) at least one unopened defeathered poultry carcass and (ii) water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, to come into contact with each other, whereby the exterior of said carcass is wetted by such water for a period of time sufficient to provide microbiocidal activity on the wet exterior of said carcass via either spraying or washing;
- b) opening and eviscerating the carcass that was wetted in a); and
- c) causing the opened and eviscerated poultry carcass to be subjected to inside-outside

washing with water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, wherein in said inside-outside washing, the interior cavity of a transported poultry carcass is penetrated by a spray probe so that (i) contaminants together with (ii) microbiocidal water solution that is sprayed into the interior cavity of the poultry by the probe, drain from the carcass.

7. (Currently amended) The improvement as in Claim 6 wherein the at least one defeathered poultry carcass in a) is one of a series of unopened defeathered poultry carcasses that are mechanically transported to a station where the poultry carcasses and the water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin come into contact with each other; wherein a series of carcasses wetted in a) are mechanically transported to a station wherein in b) the series of carcasses are opened and eviscerated; and wherein in c) the [[a]] series of poultry carcasses opened and eviscerated in b) is caused to be subjected to said inside-outside washing.

8. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 7 wherein in said inside-outside washing, pressurized sprays of water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin are applied to the exterior of the carcass so that the exterior of the carcass is thoroughly cleansed, and optionally the exterior of the carcass is also automatically mechanically scrubbed.

9. (Original) The improvement as in Claim 8 wherein the treated water sprayed into the interior cavity of the carcass has a higher concentration of active bromine than the concentration of active bromine in the treated water sprayed onto the exterior the carcass.

10. (Original) The improvement as in any of Claims 6-9 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

11. (Currently amended) In the processing of poultry for consumption as a meat product, the improvement which comprises:

- a) causing (i) water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin and (ii) at least one defeathered poultry carcass to come into contact with each other before the carcass is opened, whereby the carcass exterior is wetted by such water for a period of time sufficient to provide microbiocidal activity on the wet exterior of the carcass via either spraying or washing;

- b) opening and eviscerating the carcass that was wetted in a);
- c) causing the eviscerated carcass to be subjected to inside-outside washing with water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, wherein the washing is effected by use of an inside-outside washing apparatus through which the carcass is conveyed, and wherein in said inside-outside washing, the interior cavity of a transported poultry carcass is penetrated by a spray probe so that (i) contaminants together with (ii) microbiocidal water solution that is sprayed into the interior cavity of the poultry by the probe, drain from the carcass ~~said washing apparatus comprises a spray delivery system adapted to apply treated water to the interior cavity of said carcass and another spray delivery system adapted to apply treated water to the exterior of said carcass; and~~
- d) causing the carcass that was washed in c) to be placed in a chill tank and brought into contact with chill water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, said carcass being in said chill water for a period of time that is at least sufficient for the carcass to reach a preselected low temperature.

12. (Original) The improvement as in Claim 11 wherein to cause the contacting in a), water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is sprayed on said defeathered poultry carcass.

13. (Original) The improvement as in Claim 11 wherein to cause the contacting in a), said defeathered poultry carcass is immersed in water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin.

14. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 11 wherein in a) the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

15. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 11 wherein in d) the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

16. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 11 wherein in at least two of a), c), and d), the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

17. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 11 wherein the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the interior cavity of said carcass is treated with a higher concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin than the concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin used in the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the exterior of said carcass.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 11 wherein to cause the contacting in a), water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is sprayed on said defeathered poultry carcass.

20. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 11 wherein in c) the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

21. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 19 wherein the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the interior cavity of said carcass is treated with a higher concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin than the concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin used in the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the exterior said carcass.

22. (Original) The improvement as in any of Claims 11, 15, 17, 19, or 20 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

23. (Currently amended) In the slaughter and processing of poultry as a meat product, the improvement which comprises:

- a) causing (i) water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin and (ii) at least one unopened defeathered poultry carcass to come into contact with each other before the carcass is opened, whereby the carcass exterior is wetted by such water for a period of time sufficient to provide microbiocidal activity on the wet exterior of the carcass;
- b) opening and eviscerating the carcass that was wetted in a);
- c) causing the eviscerated carcass to be subjected to inside-outside washing with water

treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, wherein the washing is effected by use of an inside-outside washing apparatus through which the carcass is conveyed, and wherein in said inside-outside washing, the interior cavity of a transported poultry carcass is penetrated by a spray probe so that (i) contaminants together with (ii) microbiocidal water solution that is sprayed into the interior cavity of the poultry by the probe, drain from the carcass ~~said washing apparatus comprises a spray delivery system adapted to apply treated water to the interior cavity of said carcass and another spray delivery system adapted to apply treated water to the exterior of said carcass;~~

- d) causing the carcass that was washed in c) to be placed in a chill tank and brought into contact with chill water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, said carcass being in said chill water for a period of time that is at least sufficient for the carcass to reach a preselected low temperature;
- e) causing the chilled carcass to be removed from the chill tank; and
- f) before packaging the chilled carcass, causing (i) the chilled carcass and (ii) water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin to come into contact with each other.

24. (Original) The improvement as in Claim 23 wherein to cause the contacting in f), water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is sprayed on said chilled carcass.

25. (Original) The improvement as in Claim 23 wherein to cause the contacting in f), said chilled carcass is immersed in the water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin.

26-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 24 wherein the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the interior cavity of said carcass is treated with a higher concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin than the concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin used in the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the exterior said carcass.

30. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 24 wherein in at least

one of a), c), d), and f), the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

31. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 24 wherein to cause the contacting in a), water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is sprayed on said defeathered poultry carcass.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 31 wherein the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the interior cavity of said carcass is treated with a higher concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin than the concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin used in the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the exterior said carcass.

34. (Previously presented) The improvement as in any of Claims 23 or 33 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

35-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 25 wherein the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the interior cavity of said carcass is treated with a higher concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin than the concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin used in the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the exterior said carcass.

39. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 25 wherein in at least one of a), c), d), and f), the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

40. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 25 wherein to cause the contacting in a), water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is sprayed on said defeathered poultry carcass.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 40 wherein the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the interior cavity of said carcass is treated with a higher concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin than the concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin used in the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the exterior said carcass.

43. (Previously presented) The improvement as in any of Claims 38 or 42 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

44. (Original) The improvement as in Claim 23 wherein to cause the contacting in a) said defeathered poultry carcass is caused to travel through a body of water treated with at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin while immersed in said body of water.

45. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 23 wherein in at least one of a), c), d), and f), the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

46. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 23 wherein the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the interior cavity of said carcass is treated with a higher concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin than the concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin used in the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the exterior said carcass.

47. (Original) The improvement as in any of Claims 44-46 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

48. (Previously presented) In the processing of poultry for consumption as a meat product, the improvement which comprises:

A) causing an eviscerated poultry carcass to be subjected to inside-outside washing with a microbiocidal solution of water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, wherein a mechanically transported series of poultry

carcasses is automatically transported into an apparatus in which the poultry carcasses are subjected to said inside-outside washing, and wherein in said inside-outside washing, the interior cavity of a transported poultry carcass is penetrated by a spray probe so that (i) contaminants together with (ii) microbiocidal water solution that is sprayed into the interior cavity of the poultry by the probe, drain from the carcass; and

- B) causing the carcass that was washed in A) to be placed in a chill tank and brought into contact with chill water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, said carcass being in said chill water for a period of time that is at least sufficient for the carcass to reach a preselected low temperature.

49. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 48 wherein in A) the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

50. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 48 wherein in B) the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

51. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 48 wherein in said inside-outside washing, pressurized sprays of the microbiocidal water solution are applied to the exterior of the carcass so that the exterior of the carcass is thoroughly cleansed, and optionally the exterior of the carcass is also automatically mechanically scrubbed.

52. (Original) The improvement as in any of Claims 48-51 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

53. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 6 wherein in at least one of a) and c) the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

54. (Currently amended) In the processing of poultry for consumption as a meat product, the improvement which comprises causing an eviscerated poultry carcass to be subjected to inside-outside washing with a microbiocidal solution of water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, wherein the treated water applied to



the interior cavity of said carcass is treated with a higher concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin than the concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin used in the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the exterior of said carcass, wherein a mechanically transported series of poultry carcasses is automatically transported into apparatus in which the poultry carcass is subjected to said inside-outside washing, and wherein in said inside-outside washing, the interior cavity of a transported poultry carcass is penetrated by a spray probe so that (i) contaminants together with (ii) microbiocidal water solution that is sprayed into the interior cavity of the poultry by the probe, drain from the carcass.

55-56. (Cancelled)

57. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 56 wherein in said inside-outside washing, pressurized sprays of the microbiocidal water solution are applied to the exterior of the carcass so that the exterior of the carcass is thoroughly cleansed, and optionally the exterior of the carcass is also automatically mechanically scrubbed.

58. (Previously presented) The improvement as in any of Claims 54-57 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.